1 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer/ODP

STAT   FROM   : [   ]
                              Configuration Management Branch

STAT   THROUGH   : [   ]
                              Chief, Engineering Division

            SUBJECT   : Evaluation of FIPS Specification for
                              Magnetic Tape Cartridges, Cassettes, and
                              6250 CPI Group Coded Recording (GCR)

1. This specification appears to reflect the current
state of the art for magnetic tape recording techniques
on cartridge tapes, cassette tapes and half inch nine track
tape at 6250 CPI, GCR. As such, this specification would
lock ODP into the current technology for magnetic tape
recording. These specifications are too rigid to allow
for future technological developments. As new ADP technologies
are developed and used industry wide, new FIPS specifications
are usually written so these technologies are properly used
by the Federal Government. The FIPS is often written to
describe a particular manufacturer's product. However, there
is a significant time lag, perhaps two to five years, before
the FIPS is written. Therefore, adoption of these standards
could inhibit ODP from benefiting from newly developed tape
processing technologies.

2. This FIPS document states that a waiver procedure
for this tape standard is being defined by the Department of
Commerce. This procedure will be stated in a later printed
version of this FIPS publication. If this procedure is
reviewed and found acceptable, this FIPS specification could
be adopted without significant harm to ODP.

3.   If this FIPS specification applies only to
inter-agency data interchange via magnetic tape, then
this FIPS would be acceptable. ODP would then not be
restricited in the tape technologies employed in its
internal operations. However, if the FIPS applies to
both external and internal data interchange then an
acceptable waiver procedure would be required.

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